

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET SENIOR COMENTATOR ON PRESIDENT'S
"RACISM" COMMENT

REF: MOSCOW 10174

1. AFTER A SIX-DAY DELAY THE SOVIETS HAVE TRAINED ONE OF THEIR SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATORS, V. MATVEYEV, ON THE PRESIDENT'S CHARGE OF SOVIET "RACISM." WHILE THE TWO PREVIOUS ARTICLES ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT PULLED THE PUNCH SLIGHTLY BY COUCHING THE PERSONAL CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN QUALIFIED TERMS (REFTEL), MATVEYEV GIVES WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE DEFINITIVE LINE AND DOES NOT HESITATE TO DIRECTLY, SHARPLY, AND PERSONALLY CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS "SLANDEROUS ATTACKS" ON THE SOVIET UNION.

2. INTERESTINGLY MATVEYEV'S APPROACH IS TO DISCUSS AND
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CRITICIZE THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS "SMOKE SCREEN" TO COVER THE FAILURES OF U.S. POLICY IN AFRICA WHERE THE CLAIMS, THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN FAVORABLY OF THE REGIMES IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA (CITING LAST YEAR (CITING INTER ALIA A DOD REPORT ON AFRICA). HE ADDRESSES THE QUESTION OF SOVIET RACAIL QUESTION OF SOVIET RACIAL ATTITUDES ONLY BRIEFLY, AND OF COURSE, DENYING THAT ANY

RACISM EXISTS. THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE ARTICLE TAKES
AS A GIVEN THAT THERE IS NO RACISM IN THE USSR.

3. MATVEYEV STRIKES BACK IN THE TYPICAL, AND UNIMAGINA-
TIVE, SOVIET WAY BY CITING EXAMPLES OF U.S. FAULTS AND
ROBLEMS WHICH HE CONTENDS DEMONSTRATE THE EXISTENCE
OCIETY (E.G., THE WILMINGTON TEN, AND THE CALLEY CASE
IN WHICH MATVEYEV CLAIMS CALLEY RECEIVED THE "MORAL
SUPPORT" OF THE "FORMER GOVERNOR GEORGIA", APPARENTLY
EANING CARTER). HE RIDICULES THE IDEA THAT THERE IS RACIAL
HARMONY IN THE U.S. AND REJECTS THE U.S. AS A PROPER
MODEL" FOR THE AFRICAN STATES TO FOLLOW, SOMETHING HE
REMARKS.

4. TO DEMONSTRATE A LACK OF RACIAL HARMONY AND THE
PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO FULFILL HIS ELECTION PROMISES TO
HE AMERICAN BLACKS WHO VOTED FOR HIM, MATVEYEV TROTS
OUT THE OLD UNEMPLOYMENT ARGUMENT, IN THIS CASE CITING
A FIGURE OF "OVER 40 PERCENT OF BLACK YOUTHS" UNABLE TO
FIND JOBS.

5. SINCE TASS CARRIED ONLY SHORTENED VERSION OF
MATVEYEV PIECE, EMBASSY IS SENDING IN FULL TEXT BY
SEPARATE TELEGRAM. TOON

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